Role of Science and Technology in Development Process

2073. SYED SIBTEY RAZI :

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that renowned Scientists of country have demanded for incorporation of Science and Technology as integral part of the development process to help India emerge as a competitive nation in the changing economic scenario ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government proposed to take some action on these demands ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) and (b) There have been a number of interactions between S&T Departments and scientific community in the country. More recently, consultations have taken place with some scientists and technologists as part of the ongoing pre-budget discussions.

It is felt that Science & Technology has a very important role to play in modernising and making our economy globally competitive. Important suggestions and comments that emerged from these discussions are ; (1) Setting up of Technology Development Bank (2) Research career to be made more rewarding (3) Universities involved in Research work to be included in the tax exemption in the Budget (4) Emphasis on Science education and Human Resource Development at all levels (5) Continued Government support to key areas of basis research (6) Strategic research areas like agriculture, pearmaceuticals, defence to be heavily subsidised (7) 125% tax benefit to be extended to private institutions (8) R&D efforts to be geared to areas of our competitive advantage.

(c) and (d) These suggestions and comments form an input to the formulation of strategies for science and technology.

Seismic Research with German Collaboration

2074. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the scientists of Germany have been drilling the world's deepest hole to understand the origin of earthquake;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to conduct similar tests in the country with the help of German scientists; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) Scieptists in Germany, as part of continental deep drilling programme, are drilling a hole for studying the different geophysical parameters including the origin of earthquakes. The bore-hole has reached a depth of more than 7.0 km. Such drilling could help in understanding how srain in the earth's crust is building up, as related to earthquakes. The test is in a preliminary stage.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise, Sir.

Historical remains in the ocean near Dwarka

2075. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present stage of Dr. S. R. Rao's research in exploring the ocean